

**COMMISSIONERS**  
KRISTIN K. MAYES - Chairman  
GARY PIERCE  
PAUL NEWMAN  
SANDRA D. KENNEDY  
BOB STUMP



0000094044

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION **RECEIVED**

February 24, 2009

**ORIGINAL**

2009 FEB 24 P 4: 04

To: Docket Control

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

RE: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. - Customer Comments  
Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

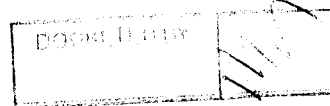
Please docket the attached 127 customer comments **OPPOSING** the above filed rate case.

Customer comments can be reviewed in E-docket under the above docket number.

Filed by: Utilities Division – Consumer Services

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

FEB 24 2009



WS-03478A-08.0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Richard Martinez

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 76828

Date: 2/23/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed  
N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Shawn

Palmer

Account Name: Shawn Palmer

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85365

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

(Docket #: WS-0347BA-080454)

From: Shawn Palmer [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 5:06 PM  
To: Utilities Div - Mailbox  
Subject: Docket: WS-0347BA-080454

My name is Lowell Palmer from Yuma, Arizona. I am writing to let you know I signed a petition against the cost increase in my Water and Sewer (Far West Water and Sewer). A 200% increase is ridiculous, that would triple the cost it is now. With the way the economy is this is robbery. I and my wife are on a fixed income and every penny counts. We will not support this increase and neither will the rest of the people living in our area.

[REDACTED]  
Yuma, Arizona 85365

Email: [REDACTED]

Docket #: WS-0347BA-080454

Do not reply to this email use the email address provided.  
\*End of Complaint\*

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

## UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

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I emailed this OPINION to Trish Meeter @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards West Water & Sewer, Inc. Docket #: WS-0347BA-080454. FILE CLOSED.

\*End of Comments\*

**Date Completed:** 2/23/2009

**Opinion No.** 2009 - 76828

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WS-03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Richard Martinez

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion      No. 2009      76825

Date: 2/23/2009

Complaint Description:      08A Rate Case Items - Opposed  
N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Complaint By:      **Kathlyn & Clinton**

**Pierce**

Account Name:      Kathlyn & Clinton Pierce

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street:      [REDACTED]

Work: (000) 000-0000

City:      Yuma

CBR: [REDACTED]

State:      AZ      Zip: 85367

is: E-Mail

Utility Company:      **Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.**

Division:      Water

Contact Name:      [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

(Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454)

From: Kathy Pierce [REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 4:17 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Utilities Div - Mailbox; [REDACTED]  
Subject: sewer rate increase. Docket # ws-03478A-08-0454

Attached is our comment against the sewer increase. Reference docket

# ws-03478A-08-0454

Kathlyn and Clinton Pierce

[REDACTED]

Yuma, AZ 85367

\*End of Complaint\*

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:



# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

## UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

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I emailed this OPINION to Trish Meeter @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454. FILE CLOSED.

\*End of Comments\*

**Date Completed:** 2/23/2009

**Opinion No.** 2009 - 76825

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WS-03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Richard Martinez

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion      No. 2009      76826

Date: 2/23/2009

Complaint Description:      08A Rate Case Items - Opposed  
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By:      First:      Last:  
Larry      Unknown

Account Name: Larry Unknown

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street: 00000

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR: JP [REDACTED]

State: AZ      Zip: 85364

is: E-Mail

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

(Docket NO. WS-03478A-08-0454)

From: [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 10:11 AM  
To: Utilities Div - Mailbox  
Subject: Yuma far west Water & sewer WS-03478A-08-0454

In regards to Docket NO. WS-03478A-08-0454

Yuma Far West Water and Sewer CO request for a 200% service cost increase.

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THIS REQUEST FOR A RATE INCREASE AS THIS INCREASE IS IN NO WAY REASONABLE.

THIS COMPANY IS OBVIOUSLY RAN BY PEOPLE THAT HAVE NO BUSINESS SINCE OR THEY WOULD NOT BE IN THIS POSITION.

BAD PLANNING ON THERE PART DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN EMERGENCY BAIL OUT FROM THERE CUSTOMERS.

THANKS, LARRY  
\*End of Complaint\*

Utilities' Response:

**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**  
**UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

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**Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

I emailed this OPINION to Carmen Madrid @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. Docket NO. WS-03478A-08-0454. FILE CLOSED.

\*End of Comments\*

**Date Completed:** 2/23/2009

**Opinion No.** 2009 - 76826

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# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

*This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.*

## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>DOROTHY L. CULVER</i>	DATE <i>2-21-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13604 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> St Yuma 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>209-765-5447</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>DLNWCUL2@AOL.COM</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

**Please see the Next 2 Pages**

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

*This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:*  
**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**  
 or

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

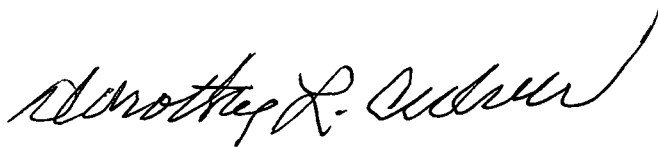
CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009



\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Jack Penine</i>	DATE <i>02-18-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13372 41st Lane</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

**Please see the Next 2 Pages**

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## Step 4

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

or

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*

*accc@arizona.gov*

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>KENNETH WALTMAN &amp; NAOMI WALTMAN</b>	DATE <b>02/20/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>12610 E 46TH ST YUMA, AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-342-5950</b> <b>509-969-1328 cell</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

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[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)



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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>John Lindsay</i>	DATE <i>2-19-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13373 41st Lane</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

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Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

**or**

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*

**mal.lindsey@arizona.gov**

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Joe + Krista Wolfe</i>	DATE <i>2-20-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>12620 46th St E</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>[Signature]</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

*or*

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
mel.miller@azcc.gov*

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Kittie Lindsay</i>	DATE <i>2-20-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>12605 46th St E</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>topgipp@yahoo.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

or

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*  
**mal.assess@arizona.gov**

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>KATHY L. HAMILTON</i>	DATE <i>2/22/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11322 S. AVE 12E #217 YUMA AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-0259</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>twohams@msn.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*I do NOT believe THE RESIDENTS OF THE YUMA FOOTHILLS should be held responsible for the BAD MANAGEMENT + BUSINESS PRACTICES OF "FAR WEST WATER + SEWER" ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME THAT "BAILOUT" STOPS. MAYBE, IT SHOULD START NOW, IN YUMA, WITH "FAR WEST" BAILING THEMSELVES OUT. I OPPOSE ANY INCREASE OF ANY KIND UNTIL THE BUSINESS + MANAGEMENT OF THIS COMPANY IS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED. IT IS TIME TO SAY "NO" - LEARN HOW TO MANAGE OR SELL & GET OUT. PERHAPS IT IS TIME FOR THE COUNTY TO TAKE CONTROL, APPLY THE LAW & ENFORCE THE "GOOD BUSINESS PRACTICES".*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

*Kathy Hamilton*

This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:  
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

OR

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

February 19, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

I am amazed and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

It is quite apparent that the proposed increase has been requested in order to pay off debt incurred to finance the improvements needed to bring the current system into compliance with the ADEQ requirements and to allow for future development of the system. The cost of these improvements should not be the responsibility of the present consumer; it should be the responsibility of the company which **obviously ignored** the requirements in the first place.

It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc., and not the current consumers.

Sincerely,

*Leland L. Zongker*  
13152 E 53<sup>rd</sup> St  
Yuma AZ 85367

Leland L. Zongker  
P.O. Box 43  
Beavercreek, OR 97004

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>David J. Rushing Sr.</i>	DATE <i>2-19-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>9613 E. 33<sup>RD</sup> ST. Yuma, AZ</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>1-209-202-9955</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	<i>{ AGAINST FAR WEST WATER &amp; SEWER ENGINEERS COSTLY MISTAKE }</i>

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*LET FAR WEST WATER & SEWER ABSORB THE NEW COST OF THEIR NEW SUBDIVISIONS WATER & SEWER PROBLEMS OR PASS THE COST ONTO THE SUBDIVISION NEW LOT BUYERS. BUT NOT OURS. WHY SHOULD WE VISTA DEL SOL HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES?*

*David J. Rushing Sr.*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME Ord S Shaw, Jr.	DATE 2/23/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 14807 E 53rd Drive Yuma, Az 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (503) 730-1574
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Rate Application of Far West Water & Sewer Company	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer Company	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS ords@escapees.com	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2009 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

*This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:*  
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
or

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*  
mailmaster@azcc.gov

**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form  
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.



**Friday, February 20, 2009**

**Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454**

**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W Washington  
Phoenix AZ 85007**

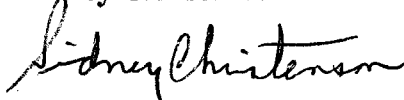
**As a consumer, I wish to protest the absurd raise in sewer fees that Far West has requested.**

**As a part-time resident with an RV on an RV lot in Vista Del Sol my usage is minimal.**

**All other services are provided by the City of Yuma. My water usage for 2007 was 3 hcf and also 3 hcf for 2008. With the Winter Visitor population starting to leave in the spring, Far West has far less effluent to treat, yet they want a rate increase far beyond reason.**

**In 2000. they shut off the sewer charge when we shut off the water with the City of Yuma. After a lawsuit for careless practices involving the death of one of their employees, Far West began charging for sewer year-round and raised the rate. Presently with more litigation on odor control and apparent failure to comprehend growth we are again expected to cover the short comings.**

**Sidney Christenson**



**2925 N Mitch Dr  
Tucson AZ 85719**

**928 503-2245**

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

*This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.*

## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Kimberly Magstadt-Miller</b>	DATE <b>2/20/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>11623 S. Dorothy Dr. Yuma, AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-580-2559</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>kumbo0495@msn</b>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

**Please see the Next 2 Pages**

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

**or**

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*

**mailmaster@azcc.gov**

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.

- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.

- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

# Arizona Corporation Commission

## Public Comment Form

### Step 1

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### Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Ralph A. Walters</i>	DATE <i>2-21-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY/STATE AND ZIP <i>13645 E. 53rd ST - Yuma Az. 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-305-1535</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>FARWEST WATER &amp; SEWER RATE INCREASE</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>FARWEST WATER &amp; SEWER</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

<p><i>Seem unfair to home owner in the Foothills to raise the sewer rates to such a high increase. Many are on fixed incomes as we are.</i></p> <p><i>Not fair at all.</i></p> <p><i>R. Walters</i></p>
---

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

### Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
or

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

February 14, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Far West Water & Sewer Rate Increase

I am writing to strongly protest the sewer rate increase currently being requested by Far West Water & Sewer Company in Yuma, Arizona. This is outrageous. How can you even begin to seriously entertain allowing an almost 215% increase. The area that will be impacted by this request increase is home to a large number of senior citizens on a fixed income (whose annual COLA increases over 15 years would not even come close to the 214.5% increase they are requesting), military and other working families who are already financially pressed. If Far West Water & Sewer cannot keep up with expanding services without increasing rates to long existing customers then they need to stop expanding or find another source of funding. Perhaps they need to take a hard look at what they pay their CEOs and owners then go on a diet just like the rest of us.

You keep allowing APS to increase their rates until it is all we can do to keep up and now all the other utilities want an even bigger piece of the pie. Enough already. Stop this madness.

*Jack & Kimberly  
Dennis & Russell  
10333 S. Winter Ave  
Yuma, Az 85365*

February 19, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona, 85007

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is the Public Comment Form with our concerns regarding the proposed sewer rate increase.

This huge increase of over 200% in the next couple of years is highly unreasonable and unfair to all of the homeowners in Yuma County, but is especially unfair to the winter visitors who reside for only half the year, but pay the sewer bill every month of the year. This is a monumental amount of money for anyone to pay. It will be especially difficult for the many seniors on a fixed income in this area, both year-round residents and "Snowbirds". For the seasonal residents, this increase equates to close to a 600% rate increase. Many will not be able to afford to continue wintering in Yuma.

In our opinion, no company should be allowed to charge their customers such an exorbitant increase. We sincerely ask you to not allow this to happen.

Yours truly,

*Al & Marilyn Stewart*

Rancho Rialto R.V. Resort  
Al & Marilyn Stewart  
Sp. 242 - 11322 - S. Ave. 12E  
Yuma, Az., 85367

*P.S. -- We would appreciate hearing from you  
with your comments - (928) 305-2885*

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>AL &amp; MARILYN STEWART</b>	DATE <b>FEB. 11, 2009</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>#242 - 11322 S. AVE. 12E YUMA, AZ</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928 305-2885</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>sewer rate increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>almars1@shaw.ca</b>	

*Regarding the rate increase in sewer*  
ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

1. This huge increase of over 200% is totally out of line & unacceptable. We would accept a slight increase, but not this amount.
2. Here, in Rancho Rialto, many seniors are on fixed incomes & cannot afford such high increases. Many parks will be affected.
3. The majority of people at Rancho are here only 5 months per year & only use sewer for the 5 mos. This makes the increase even larger for all of us, close to 600%. We may not be able to afford continuing to come to Yuma.
4. We have never heard of any company being allowed to increase their services by such a huge amount.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)



February 19, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

I am amazed and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

It is quite apparent that the proposed increase has been requested in order to pay off debt incurred to finance the improvements needed to bring the current system into compliance with the ADEQ requirements and to allow for future development of the system. The cost of these improvements should not be the responsibility of the present consumer; it should be the responsibility of the company which **obviously ignored** the requirements in the first place.

It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc., and not the current consumers.

Sincerely,

*John B. Harp*

*Zana Lee Harp*



John & Zana Harp  
13131 E 53rd Street  
Yuma, AZ 85367

## Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Alice D. McMillen  
13167 E 46th Dr.  
Yuma, AZ 85367

### Step 1

*This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.*

### Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>ALICE McMILLEN</b>	DATE <b>02/23/2009</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13167 E 46TH DR., YUMA, AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-342-3283</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Increase in annual revenues for sewer service</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>NONE</b>	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

I can not believe you would increase the rate this much at one time. Most of the people who live in the foothills are winter visitors and can't afford that kind of increase. A 200% is to much. We live close to Yuma, why can't we get are sewer service from them. At this rate we could get it cheaper. And now they want the commission to raise the rate even before the commission except the rate increase. In closed you will find my bill for reconnect totaling 133.75. Every year we pay for reconnect charge.

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

### Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
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[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

## Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

### Step 1

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### Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Ruth Bingham</i>	DATE <i>2-22-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13260 E 45th Dr Yuma, Az 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-1512</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Increase in annual revenues for sewer service</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>ruthie_ruthie@msn.com</i>	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*I do not feel that a 200% increase is warranted. It would definitely put a hardship on people with limited incomes. Far West Water & Sewer should not be allowed to make their customers pay for their mismanagement. Especially when lots are still being developed and houses built with promised sewer service.*

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

### Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Ken Bingham</i>	DATE <i>2-22-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13260 E 45th St Yuma, Az 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-1512</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON <i>Interm Emergency Rate Increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0608</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>Pony-mustanga@msn.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*I do not feel that any increase is warranted. we are not allowed to shut off our sewer when we have not six months, therefore they already got six months pay with no usage. If the new development pay for their sewers, we have already payed for ours. Far west water & sewer should not be able to offer sewer services to new homes, when they can't take care of their current customers.*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
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YOUR NAME <b>LARRY HODGES</b>	DATE <b>2/23/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13201 E 55 Dr. Yuma, AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>435 757 4373</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Both</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0608</b> <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Sewer</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>lhodges@yahoo.com</b>	

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

The Amount requested is ridiculous, is new development in the cause the developer should pay not the people who have already paid for the system. It sounds like the sewer is the developer and the residents are paying for them to live their pockets. Should be illegal we do not need to bail them out.

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

Summer Address **111 W. HODGES CANYON RD.  
GARDEN CITY UT 84028.**

This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:  
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

**Larry & Lana Hodges  
13201 East 55<sup>th</sup> Drive  
Yuma, Arizona 85367**

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Trudy + Richard Gauwitt</i>	DATE <i>2-15-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>12645 S. Dorothy Dr Yuma AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-580-5508</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*In this economy how can anyone justify raising rates so drastically we are retired + trying to live on our IRA savings + SS but with everything dropping + the stock market in the toilet what you once had is gone. If they get this raise it will be more than my taxes or power. I've already cut out all the frills - no cell phone no eating out as everything is going up. What do I cut next drugs, doctors, food?*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

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Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

or

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

February 14, 2009

To: Far West Water and Sewer Company  
In regards to: Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

From: Earl and Evalyn Krueth  
Ph-612-720-5377  
13414 Chisolm Way  
Yuma Az 85367

In Response to the information received earlier on the above docket, we have some questions.

1. What are the rates going for in the surrounding communities? What are their projections for the future?
2. Who will relocate to this area when the sewer rates are so high? With out more purchasers to help offset future expenses the situation will continue to get worse. The "baby boomers" are just starting to retire, where will they be purchasing their new homes? The Foothills in Yuma, I believe not. With our economy, income has changed for quite a few, and the investments of many have been affected. This situation will probably not change soon, and play a big part in the location they, the "baby boomers" choose.
3. What does this do to the value of our homes? They have already lost a considerable amount with the housing market crash. This will only make it worse.

Evalyn, spent over 20 years in real estate in the Minneapolis Minnesota area working with different developers. The cost of installation of the sewers was a cost that was always included in the lot price. If the developer made an error they had to absorb it not pass it on to the existing properties. Just as a Builder can not

go back to a buyer after closing and tell them there is additional expenses.

Buyers usually ask for existing utilities costs and use that info in the choice of the purchase of their new home. **Why would they pick a location in the Foothills serviced by Far West Water and Sewer?**

**We are very opposed to this rate increase in any form.**

Thank you,

*Earl A. Krueth*  
*Evalyn Krueth*  
Earl A. Krueth  
Evalyn Krueth



# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Wm + Mary Cole</i>	DATE <i>2-15-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13687 S. Selma Dr Yuma AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-305-6232</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*We have been hit very hard by the down turn of the stock market. We are retired & not in good health. This income of over 100% the first year & so on for 3 years. My water, sewer bill will be more than my power bill which jumps up yearly with less usage. What do I cut out of my now much smaller budget with raising costs & down stock market. F&S had to build this new plant to accommodate*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form  
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

this increase sewer usage from their new  
huge subdivision & law suit. Even if they say  
the money will not go to that. If you believe  
that there are alot of banks that what is  
to believe they did not pay their excecution  
those banks from our money. How anyone can even  
think about raising rates so drastically in this  
economy I do not understand. If you approve this  
large increase in our rates my God forgive you  
for hurting so many people. What about the economy  
of Yuma the winter people will not return who  
rent & those that own will try & sell to go  
else where

February 20, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

I am amazed and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

It is quite apparent that the proposed increase has been requested in order to pay off debt incurred to finance the improvements needed to bring the current system into compliance with the ADEQ requirements and to allow for future development of the system. The cost of these improvements should not be the responsibility of the present consumer; it should be the responsibility of the company which **obviously ignored** the requirements in the first place.

It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc., and not the current consumers.

Sincerely,

Bill O'Connor  
14519 E 54th Rd  
Yuma Az  
85367

February 19, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

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Sincerely,

Annette Lethaunt  
Raymond Lethaunt

13141 E 53<sup>rd</sup> St, Yuma, AZ 85361  
928-345-0911



# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

**This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.**

## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>DOROTHY Richard Russell</i>	DATE <i>2-15-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13203 E 45TH LN, Yuma AZ</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-305-0987</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Increase in annual revenues for sewer service	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer Company	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>minimotor6@gmail.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*Due to the extreme downfall of the economy  
No one could afford something so extravagant  
We will have to sell out & move to Florida  
if this goes through!*

*You should have done it right in the first  
place! There is no need for us to pay for the sewer  
for 12 months a year when we are only here for 6 months*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

**This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:  
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
or**

**You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)**

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

<b>YOUR NAME</b> <i>Dorothy &amp; Richard Russell</i>	<b>DATE</b> <i>2-21-09</i>
<b>ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP</b> <i>13203 E 45th LN YUMA AZ 85367</i>	<b>YOUR PHONE NUMBER</b> <i>928-305-0987</i>
<b>DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON:</b> <b>Interm Emergency Rate Increase</b>	<b>DOCKET NUMBER</b> <b>WS-03478A-08-0608</b>
<b>CASE OR UTILITY NAME</b> <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</b>	<b>YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET</b> PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
<b>YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS</b> <i>minimotorb@q.com</i>	

## Step 3

**ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:**

*Re: Interm Emergency Rate Increase*

*We are 100% opposed to this Increase.*

*Like many others in the Foothills, we are considering selling our winter home and wintering in Florida. You are responsible for the mistakes you have made; and you need to assume the burden!*

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

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[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>HAROLD E. DARLENE THOLE</b>	DATE <b>2-23-09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13693 E. 53rd. St. Yuma, Az. 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-342-3131</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>FARWEST WATER &amp; SEWER RATE INCREASE</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>FARWEST WATER &amp; SEWER</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>DARHAR2@MSN.COM</b>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

you's couldn't pick A worst time For such A Large INCREASE. We ARE ALL Struggling through this Crunch Most of us our ALSO Helping other Family MEMBER to stay AFLOAT.  
PLEASE Reconsider the issues.  
**Harold Thole**  
**(Retired 1999)**

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
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**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form  
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:



Grady W. Farris  
13267 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Yuma, AZ 85367

February 21, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE:

~~Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer~~  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket # WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

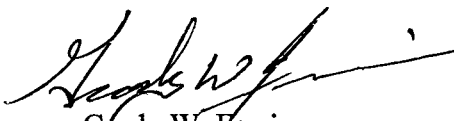
I am amazed and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

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It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area, will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc. and not the current consumers.

Sincerely



Grady W. Farris

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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**Jim & Louise Lane**  
13813 S Ironwood Dr  
Yuma, AZ 85367-8415

## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Jim &amp; Louise LANE</i>	DATE <i>1-25-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13813 S. Ironwood Dr.</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-342-9013</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Rate increase proposal</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Co.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

<i>An increase of 214 percent is ridiculous. There isn't even an explanation as to where the funds would be used. We feel we would be paying for their poor investments/mgmt.</i>
---

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
or*

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)*

February 20, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer

Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona

Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454

Position on the Docket: Con

I am amazed and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

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Sincerely,

*Linda Klugger*     *Jerry Klugger*  
14858 E. 52ND ST  
Yuma, AZ 85367

*We agree with all the above statements*

February 19, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer

Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona

Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454

Position on the Docket: Con

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Sincerely,

*H. Eugene Pearson*

*13411 E. 53rd St.*

*Yuma, AZ 85367*

**H. E. Pearson**  
13411 E 53rd St.  
Yuma, AZ 85367-8310

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Charlye Knapp</i>	DATE <i>2/22/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>12525 E. 44th St. WMA, AZ</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>208-659-7338</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Rate Increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water &amp; Sewer</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*Why should the users have to pay for the  
Companies poor planning and inept Business Management*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

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 Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

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# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Milton M. Roeckel</i>	DATE <i>2/12/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>14370 49<sup>th</sup> Ln Yuma, AZ 85365</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>303-919-2756</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Rate Application (Increase)</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Co</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>millemax@earthlink.net</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*As a retiree on a fixed income this increase in rates will cause GREAT hardship!!*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
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[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

February 19, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer

Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona

Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454

Position on the Docket: Con

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Sincerely,

*Carol J. Pearson*  
13411 E. 53rd St.  
Yuma, AZ 85367

 Carol Pearson  
13411 E 53rd St.  
Yuma, AZ 85367

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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**Ron Walker**  
13723 E 54th Dr  
Yuma, AZ 85367

Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>RONALD + IZETTA WALKER</b>	DATE <b>2/23/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13723 E. 54th DR</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-345-2389</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Far West request for emergency rate increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0608</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>FAR WEST WATER + Sewer, YUMA</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>WLK78@MSN.COM</b>	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. **WS-03478A-08-0608**

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

Step 4

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

or

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**mailmaster@azcc.gov**



# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

---

Dated this *23rd day of Feb 09*

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

# Arizona Corporation Commission

## Public Comment Form

### Step 1

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### Step 2

YOUR NAME JAMES L. & LAURA R. WEBER	DATE 2-22-09
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 12685 E 47TH ST, YUMA, AZ, 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER 541-953-4777
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS JLWEBE@MSN.COM	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

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Please see the Next 2 Pages

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 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

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F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

February 19, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

I am amazed and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

It is quite apparent that the proposed increase has been requested in order to pay off debt incurred to finance the improvements needed to bring the current system into compliance with the ADEQ requirements and to allow for future development of the system. The cost of these improvements should not be the responsibility of the present consumer; it should be the responsibility of the company which **obviously ignored** the requirements in the first place.

It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc., and not the current consumers.

Sincerely,

*Brian & Diane Gray*

*13287 E. 53RD ST  
Yuma AZ 85367*

*PH 907 317 0557*

*ZDBGRAY@AOL.COM*

February 19, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Emergency Application for Interim Rates and Charges  
(Expedited Action Requested) for Far West Water & Sewer

Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer Company, Yuma, Arizona

Docket #WS-03478A-08-0608

Position on the Docket: Con

Far West Water and Sewer Company is trying to expedite a rate change by requesting an interim rate increase. This increase comes to over 100% of the existing rate of \$21.75 per month now charged whether the consumer is using his/her property and therefore sewer services for twelve months, for six months or even only for one month per year.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this interim sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the potential "insolvency" problem described in their request is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer and not the current consumers.

The current consumers purchased their properties, a good percentage of them originating from the development company also under the same ownership as the water and sewer company, expecting that the company had installed a fully functional sewer system. This was not the case, as determinations made by the ADEQ have proven. It should not be the responsibility of the consumer, who in good faith purchased property expecting a fully operational system, to finance the errors made by the company.

Sincerely,

*Bruce & Deane Gray*

*13287 E. 53 RD St*

*Yuma AZ 85367*

*PH 907 317-0551*

*ZDBG+ay@aol.com*

February 19, 2009

From:  
Cheryl R. Buckner  
14864 east 49<sup>th</sup> St.  
Yuma, AZ 85367  
(206) 409-9389

To:  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re:  
Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water and Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: far west Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

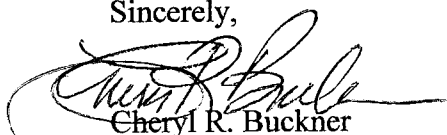
I am concerned and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

It is suspiciously apparent that the proposed increase has been requested in order to pay off debt incurred to finance the improvements needed to bring the current system into compliance with the ADEQ requirements and to allow for future development of the system. The cost of these improvements should not be the responsibility of the present consumer; it should be the responsibility of the company, which obviously ignored the requirements in the first place.

It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills Area will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

Although it is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge the consumer in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow the sewer rate increase, particularly of this outrageous one, it should be noted that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc., and not that of the current customers.

Sincerely,



Cheryl R. Buckner



# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

*This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.*

## Step 2

YOUR NAME Thomas L and Marion A Mills	DATE 2/22/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 11322 S Ave 12E Yuma Az 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 345-9608
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Far West Water and Sewer Rate Increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS azmills99@msn.com	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

The outrageous rate increase is way out of line with normal price increases.

The outrageous rate increase, if granted, would have our sewer bill twice as high as our property taxes.

A rate tied to water used would be more fair, the more wter used - the higher the sewer.

For the small amount of water we use each month, including outside watering, this increase if granted would have our sewer bill four times as high as the water bill.

The flat rate is unfair - a couple living in a small house or RV should not be charged the same as a six member family living in a much large house with more baths.

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

*This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:*

Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

or

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*

[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

C. Hamilton  
11322 S Avenue 12 E Lot 217  
Yuma, AZ 85367-6651

YOUR NAME <i>CLARENCE H Hamilton</i>	DATE <i>2-27-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11322 So Ave 12 E #217</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-0259</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>twohams@MSN.COM</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*FAR west want improvement on sewer Equipment To sell parent Company's Housing development. They Also own Golf Courses in AREA That make Home development north more. They say the death of two Employees has Nothing to do with wanting increase. I bet their insurance Rate went up. Anything but a small increase is out of the Question. Why should the Residents of the AREA Support FAR West Family business Adventure.*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

or

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[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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Karen Pearson  
14311 E. 48th Dr.  
Yuma, AZ 85367

## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Karen Pearson</i>	DATE <i>Feb 22, 2009</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>14311 E 48th Ave Yuma AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928 305-0223</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>k9p111@yahoo.ca</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**, we the customers of Far West Water & Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to **NOT APPROVE** the application submitted by Far West Water and Sewer Company, Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, would would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved, this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the next 2 pages

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Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
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[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&S Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

We feel @ 5-10 % increase would be acceptable.  
Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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*Jerry & Caroline Loader  
13337 S. Driftwood Dr.  
Yuma, AZ 85367*

## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Jerry &amp; Caroline Loader</i>	DATE <i>2-23-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13337 S. Driftwood Dr. Yuma, AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-305-8620</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water &amp; Sewer - Yuma, AZ</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*This request is totally unacceptable in consideration of the current economic situation. Considering past performance of Far West, this proposal is just another example of corporate greed and unethical business practice. Far West needs more funds to continue development of more land, not to improve sewage treatment standards as proposed. Do not be fooled by this corrupt organization.*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:  
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
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# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Vernon &amp; Gwen Ellison</b>	DATE <b>22 Feb 2009</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13223 E. 45th Lane, Yuma AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-342-0147</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Increase in annual revenues for sewer service</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>vgeLLISON@Juno.com</b>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We own our lot in the foothills with only 1 RV parked on it and thought \$21.00 per month for 12 months was very high when we use it only for 5 months or less. We think that the cost of sewage plants in new or old developments should be paid for by the H&S Development (Far West Water & Sewer Company) when they sell the lots in their developments the Schechter Family makes a profit already on the lots.

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

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# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

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## Step 2

<i>Richard + DOROTHY STRIKER</i>		<i>2/22/09</i>
<b>YOUR NAME</b>	<b>DATE</b>	
<i>13228 E 52nd DR YUMA AZ 85367</i>	<i>928-342-2789</i>	
<b>ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP</b>	<b>YOUR PHONE NUMBER</b>	
<b>DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON:</b>	<b>DOCKET NUMBER</b>	
<b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	<b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>	
<b>CASE OR UTILITY NAME</b>	<b>YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET</b>	
<b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	<b>PRO</b> <input type="radio"/> <b>CON</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>OTHER</b> <input type="radio"/>	
<b>YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>		
<i>ddstriker@wmconnect.com</i>		

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

**Please see the Next 2 Pages**

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE

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C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Vernon + Gwen Ellison</i>	DATE <i>22 Feb 2009</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13223 E. 45TH LANE, YUMA AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-342-0147</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Interm Emergency Rate Increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0608</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>VgEllison@Juno.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*We object to the Interm Emergency Rate Increase. If H&S developments' planning was so poor that they need to truck sewage out during the snow bird season they should not have sold that many lots for development or planned on a larger capacity sewage plants early on. A small profit on the sewage service is fine - but not a huge profit like their sale of lots.*

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**  
 or

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[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Dale Vaughan &amp; Roger Cox</i>	DATE <i>2-19-2009</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>12627 E 46th Ave, Yuma, AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>509-680-4582</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>Cowboybolte@plexitel.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.

- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.

- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

*This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.*

## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Kirk Redlin</b>	DATE <b>2/20/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>B890 E 51st St, Yuma, AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>208-880-6609</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Far West Water + Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water + Sewer</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>redlin@fmtc.com</b>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

This rate case is the most blatantly out of line request I have ever heard of. It is way more money than 99% of the retired Seniors living in the same foothills can ever afford to pay! It will put a terrible hardship on people w/ fixed incomes as well as people who ~~are~~ like myself who only live here for 2-3 weeks →

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

*This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:*  
 Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
 or

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form  
Continuation Page

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

of the years if I knew 10 years ago that this was going to happen, I would never have invested my hard earned money in this place. 5 or 10% increase in rates are understandable - but when my sewer + water bill is 5 times my property tax something has gone completely crazy! the ACC needs to shoot this one down! If this company can't manage our water + sewer then someone else needs to do it. If they want us to be liable for their lawsuit loss, I'm bailing out - I bought my first lot when I was 38 years old and now am 57 - about to retire - please help us keep our lifetime investment. Property values will go to nothing if this kind of nonsense is allowed to prevail!!

Sincerely — Kirk Redin

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to not approve the application submitted by Far West Water and Sewer Company. Docket No WS-03478A-08-0454.

We feel the following reasons are well within reason to disapprove this application.

1. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma, Arizona. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this mostly unincorporated area of Yuma County who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate.
2. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers have been fined and are required to pay penalties for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008. These penalties could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H&S Developers is named because it provided the services until forming Far West Water and Sewer as a separate company in 1998 and transferring the drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.
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4. The majority of the residents both permanent and seasonal, living in the Foothills area are on fixed incomes. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or suffer foreclosure. With today's housing crisis a rate increase such as proposed would further add to the declining economy.



# IN CONCLUSION

We don't feel that we, the current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new wastewater plant needed to compensate for future growth. This cost should be absorbed by impact fees on new subdivision developments.

We strongly feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of Far West Water and Sewer Co. It certainly appears that they were negligent in their planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co should have up dated the current facilities as far back as 1990 when repeated violations were recorded. These allegations are not assumptions. Records show that repeated violations have been submitted since 1990 from ADEQ. In September 9, 2008, a 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court was filed against these companies for wastewater violations. We feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water and Sewer in paying settlements incurred due to law suits and penalties owed to ADEQ for the negligence.

Far West Water and Sewer is trying to offset the costs incurred in their new development on 48<sup>th</sup> Street with our dollars. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. It is common knowledge that Far West Water and Sewer and H&S Development have been investing their revenues in future developments instead of maintaining the system that is currently in place. If attention had been given to proper maintenance of the system the Company would not now be requesting this unrealistic cost increase. Other cities in Arizona, when requesting an increase have ranged from 5% to 9% certainly not 200%.

In the present day and age with the economy such as it is we the customers cannot afford this enormous, unrealistic increase. We ask that you seriously consider our concerns and VOTE UNANIMOUSLY again such a ridiculous scheme.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

ROBERT M WALKER

NAME

Robert M Walker

NAME

9735 E 35TH PL 9727 35TH PL TWO LOTS

ADDRESS

GUMMA AZ 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

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IN CONCLUSION

We don't feel that we, the current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new wastewater plant needed to compensate for future growth. This cost should be absorbed by impact fees on new subdivision developments.

We strongly feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of Far West Water and Sewer Co. It certainly appears that they were negligent in their planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co should have up dated the current facilities as far back as 1990 when repeated violations were recorded. These allegations are not assumptions. Records show that repeated violations have been submitted since 1990 from ADEQ. In September 9, 2008, a 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court was filed against these companies for wastewater violations. We feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water and Sewer in paying settlements incurred due to law suits and penalties owed to ADEQ for the negligence.

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In the present day and age with the economy such as it is we the customers cannot afford this enormous, unrealistic increase. We ask that you seriously consider our concerns and VOTE UNANIMOUSLY again such a ridiculous scheme.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

James C. Toney  
NAME

James C. Toney  
NAME

9677 E. 37<sup>th</sup> St.  
ADDRESS

Yuma, AZ. 85365  
CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

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IN CONCLUSION

We don't feel that we, the current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new wastewater plant needed to compensate for future growth. This cost should be absorbed by impact fees on new subdivision developments.

We strongly feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of Far West Water and Sewer Co. It certainly appears that they were negligent in their planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co should have up dated the current facilities as far back as 1990 when repeated violations were recorded. These allegations are not assumptions.

Records show that repeated violations have been submitted since 1990 from ADEQ.

In September 9, 2008, a 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court was filed against these companies for wastewater violations. We feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water and Sewer in paying settlements incurred due to law suits and penalties owed to ADEQ for the negligence.

Far West Water and Sewer is trying to offset the costs incurred in their new development on 48<sup>th</sup> Street with our dollars. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. It is common knowledge that Far West Water and Sewer and H&S Development have been investing their revenues in future developments instead of maintaining the system that is currently in place. If attention had been given to proper maintenance of the system the Company would not now be requesting this unrealistic cost increase. Other cities in Arizona, when requesting an increase have ranged from 5% to 9% certainly not 200%.

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

LEROY F. GIPK

NAME

Leroy F. Gipk

NAME

9676 E. 37<sup>th</sup> ST

ADDRESS

YUMA AZ 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Donald E Taylor  
NAME

Donathy Taylor  
NAME

9685 E 37th St  
ADDRESS

Yuma, AZ 85365  
CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0600 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

DAVID D LEE  
NAME

DAVID D LEE  
NAME

9684 E 37<sup>th</sup>  
ADDRESS

Yuma AZ 85365  
CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0000 Emergency~~

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**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Sharon Johnston

NAME

Sharon Johnston

NAME

9606 E 37<sup>th</sup> St.

ADDRESS

Yuma, AZ 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0000 Emergency~~

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Sharlene Ross

NAME

Sharlene Ross

NAME

7607 E. 37<sup>th</sup> Street

ADDRESS

Yuma, AZ 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0000 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to not approve the application submitted by Far West Water and Sewer Company. Docket No WS-03478A-08-0454.

We feel the following reasons are well within reason to disapprove this application.

1. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma, Arizona. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this mostly unincorporated area of Yuma County who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate.
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IN CONCLUSION

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Robert E. Achey

NAME

Robert E. Achey

NAME

~~9585 E. 37<sup>th</sup> St~~

ADDRESS

Yuma, Az 85365-7022

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0000 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to not approve the application submitted by Far West Water and Sewer Company. Docket No WS-03478A-08-0454.

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IN CONCLUSION

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Lillian Jane Padgett

NAME

LILLIAN JANE PADGETT

NAME

9657 E. 37th St.

ADDRESS

Yuma Az. 85325

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0000 Emergency~~

Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer

Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to not approve the application submitted by Far West Water and Sewer Company. Docket No WS-03478A-08-0454.

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IN CONCLUSION

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Deane Panek

NAME

Deane Panek

NAME

3885 S. Salida Del Sol

ADDRESS

Yuma AZ. 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0600 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to not approve the application submitted by Far West Water and Sewer Company. Docket No WS-03478A-08-0454.

We feel the following reasons are well within reason to disapprove this application.

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Edelgard Pulver

NAME

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NAME

3777 Salida Del Sol

ADDRESS

YUMA AZ 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0000 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Barry Schnitzky  
NAME

LARRY SCHNITZKY  
NAME

9682 East 36<sup>th</sup> Lane  
ADDRESS

Yuma, AZ 85365  
CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0000 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Gloria Orr

NAME

Gloria Orr

NAME

9592 E. 34<sup>th</sup> Place - Box 13

ADDRESS

Yuma, AZ. 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0608 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

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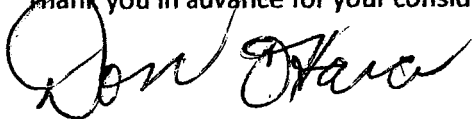
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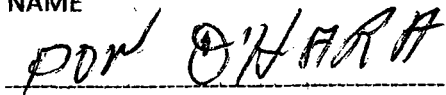
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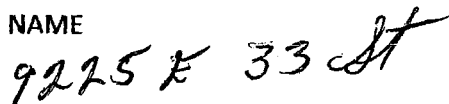
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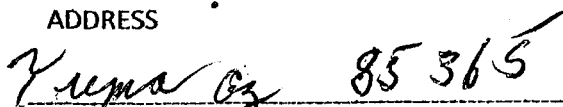
NAME



NAME



ADDRESS



CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0688 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

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IN CONCLUSION

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

*Vaughn R Hunt*

NAME

*Vaughn R Hunt Lane*

NAME

*9131 E 34*

ADDRESS

*Yuma AZ 85365*

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0608 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to not approve the application submitted by Far West Water and Sewer Company. Docket No WS-03478A-08-0454.

We feel the following reasons are well within reason to disapprove this application.

1. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma, Arizona. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this mostly unincorporated area of Yuma County who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate.
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IN CONCLUSION

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William K. Laudato Wm

NAME

Wm. KENT LAUDATO

NAME

35985. PUEST DEL SOL

ADDRESS

Yuma, AZ 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0608 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Susan Hart

NAME

Susan Hart

NAME

3837 S. Salida Del Sol Ave

ADDRESS

Yuma, Az 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0608 E~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

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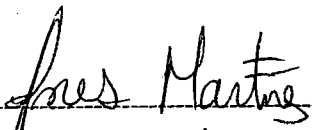
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Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

  
NAME

INES MARTINEZ  
NAME

3813 S. Salida del Sol ave Yuma AZ  
ADDRESS Yuma, AZ.  
85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0600 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

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NAME

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0606 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

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Robert Bonifacius - ROBERT BONIFACIUS

NAME

Betty Bonifacius -

NAME

9745 E 38<sup>th</sup> PLACE

ADDRESS

Yuma AZ 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0600 Emergency~~

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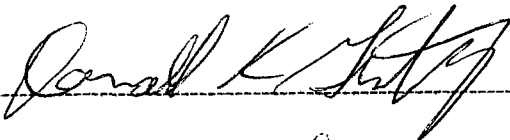
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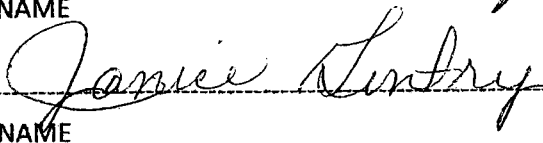
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NAME

  
NAME

9675 E. 36<sup>th</sup> LANE  
ADDRESS

YUMA AZ 85365  
CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0000 Emergency~~

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Eugenia R Hamelton

NAME

Robert A Hamelton

NAME

3825 So Saluda Del Sol

ADDRESS

Yuma AZ 85365

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent**

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0608 Emergency~~

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We strongly feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of Far West Water and Sewer Co. It certainly appears that they were negligent in their planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co should have up dated the current facilities as far back as 1990 when repeated violations were recorded. These allegations are not assumptions. Records show that repeated violations have been submitted since 1990 from ADEQ.

In September 9, 2008, a 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court was filed against these companies for wastewater violations. We feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water and Sewer in paying settlements incurred due to law suits and penalties owed to ADEQ for the negligence.

Far West Water and Sewer is trying to offset the costs incurred in their new development on 48<sup>th</sup> Street with our dollars. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. It is common knowledge that Far West Water and Sewer and H&S Development have been investing their revenues in future developments instead of maintaining the system that is currently in place. If attention had been given to proper maintenance of the system the Company would not now be requesting this unrealistic cost increase. Other cities in Arizona, when requesting an increase have ranged from 5% to 9% certainly not 200%.

In the present day and age with the economy such as it is we the customers cannot afford this enormous, unrealistic increase. We ask that you seriously consider our concerns and VOTE UNANIMOUSLY again such a ridiculous scheme.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

NAME

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

February 18, 2009

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0454 Permanent

~~Docket Number WS-03478A-08-0600 Emergency~~

**Proposed rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer**

**Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona**

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to not approve the application submitted by Far West Water and Sewer Company. Docket No WS-03478A-08-0454.

We feel the following reasons are well within reason to disapprove this application.

1. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma, Arizona. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this mostly unincorporated area of Yuma County who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate.
2. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers have been fined and are required to pay penalties for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008. These penalties could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H&S Developers is named because it provided the services until forming Far West Water and Sewer as a separate company in 1998 and transferring the drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.
3. Winter Residents currently come in mass to Yuma because of the weather and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people, with the majority living in the Foothills vicinity. This population will be especially affected by this increase. For six to eight months out of the year the absentee residents pay their sewer fees monthly despite the fact that they are not using the wastewater facility. They have returned to their home base.
4. The majority of the residents both permanent and seasonal, living in the Foothills area are on fixed incomes. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or suffer foreclosure. With today's housing crisis a rate increase such as proposed would further add to the declining economy.

IN CONCLUSION

We don't feel that we, the current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new wastewater plant needed to compensate for future growth. This cost should be absorbed by impact fees on new subdivision developments.

We strongly feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of Far West Water and Sewer Co. It certainly appears that they were negligent in their planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co should have up dated the current facilities as far back as 1990 when repeated violations were recorded. These allegations are not assumptions. Records show that repeated violations have been submitted since 1990 from ADEQ. In September 9, 2008, a 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court was filed against these companies for wastewater violations. We feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water and Sewer in paying settlements incurred due to law suits and penalties owed to ADEQ for the negligence.

Far West Water and Sewer is trying to offset the costs incurred in their new development on 48<sup>th</sup> Street with our dollars. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. It is common knowledge that Far West Water and Sewer and H&S Development have been investing their revenues in future developments instead of maintaining the system that is currently in place. If attention had been given to proper maintenance of the system the Company would not now be requesting this unrealistic cost increase. Other cities in Arizona, when requesting an increase have ranged from 5% to 9% certainly not 200%.

In the present day and age with the economy such as it is we the customers cannot afford this enormous, unrealistic increase. We ask that you seriously consider our concerns and VOTE UNANIMOUSLY again such a ridiculous scheme.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to a very serious problem.

Joy W Hanger  
NAME

JOY W HANGER  
NAME

3395 Salida Del Sol  
ADDRESS

Yuma az 85365  
CITY, STATE AND ZIP



Mr. John E. Rickerson  
3765 S. Salida Del Sol Ave.  
Yuma, AZ 85365

To: ARIZONA CORP. COMMISSION

CONCERNING & DOCKET # WS. 03478A-08-0454  
FAR WEST WATER & SEWER, INC. PURPOSED RATE  
INCREASE.

We OBJECT ~~THAT~~ THE RATE HIKE IS  
"EXTREMELY EXCESSIVE"

MANY OF US ARE WINTER VISITORS, WE  
ARE HERE 3 TO 4½ MONTHS. WE HAVE BOUGHT  
LOTS & MADE IMPROVEMENTS. THEY ARE PART OF  
OUR RETIREMENTS AND THINGS WE HOPE TO PASS  
ON TO OUR CHILDREN. STILL MOST OF US ARE  
ON LIMITED BUDGETS.

ALL UTILITIES PHONE, POWER, WATER & GARBAGE  
WE CAN TURN OFF WHEN WE ARE NOT HERE.

HOWEVER THE SEWER, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, HAS  
TO BE PAID 12 MONTHS OF THE YEAR. WHEN IT  
WAS A NOMINAL SUM, WE COULD HANDLE THE  
EXPENSE, BUT, NOW THEY WANT TO MAKE IT A  
MAJOR EXPENSE.

IF THEY WANT TO RAISE IT SO MUCH, THEN  
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TURN IT OFF WHEN  
WE ARE NOT HERE, LIKE OTHER UTILITIES.

AT THE VERY LEAST WE SHOULD HAVE A



VACATION RATE DOWN TO A MINIMAL  
EXPENSE.

THANK YOU

JOHN E. RICKERSON

Feb 20, 2009

AZ Corp Comm Consumer Serv. Section  
1200 W. Washington St  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re: Permanent Case # WS. 03478A-08-0454

The rate increase proposed by  
the West Water and Sewer will be  
an extreme financial hardship  
for me, as I live on Social Sec.  
and a very small widder's  
pension.

Please deny this enormous increase  
and look into possible mismanagement  
of this company

Sincerely  
Thirl Soots

11322 S. Ave 1212 #31  
Yuma AZ 85367

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

*This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.*

## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>HARVEY HAUN</b>	DATE <b>Feb 18, 2009</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13301 E 54th Yuma AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928 305 9353</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

**Please see the Next 2 Pages**

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

**This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:  
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

**or**

**You may e-mail it as an attachment to:**

**mailmaster@azcc.gov**

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2009 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form  
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>ROBERT WARFIELD</b>	DATE <b>2-20-09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13428 E 54 DRIVE YUMA AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-345 0966</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>BIG.BBOBE.VERIZON.NET</b>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

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F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

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Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Harley &amp; Sky Gerock</i>	DATE <i>2-18-2009</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13977 E. 54th St. Yuma, AZ. 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-342-2997</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

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**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

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Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form  
Continuation Page**

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Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

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Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is a large, stylized cursive signature that appears to read 'H. J. ...'. The bottom signature is also in cursive, appearing to read 'H. J. ...' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

**BARBARA GILKEY  
14784 E. 49<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
YUMA AZ 85367  
(928) 345-2468**

February 21, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

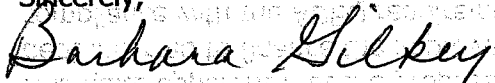
The Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees would be laughable were it not so serious.

It is quite apparent that the proposed increase has been requested in order to pay off debt incurred to finance the improvements needed to bring the current system into compliance with the ADEQ requirements and to allow for future development of the system. The cost of these improvements should not be the responsibility of the present consumer; it should be the responsibility of the company which **obviously ignored** the requirements in the first place. It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area, will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a huge investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc., and not the current consumers.

Another thought comes to mind. Is Far West asking for this outrageous increase claiming they are on the brink of financial insolvency **hoping** the state will take over the system? If that is the case and the state does take over, would all financial and moral obligations for past and present infractions be forgiven?

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Gilkey

# Arizona Corporation Commission

## Public Comment Form

### Step 1

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### Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Shirley Huxtable</i>	DATE <i>Feb 18/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>14615 E 50th St Yuma</i>	YOUR PHONE/NUMBER <i>928 342 5880</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>hux@bulkley.net</i>	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

*2 properties*

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# Arizona Corporation Commission

## Public Comment Form

### Step 1

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### Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Shirley Huxtable</i>	DATE <i>Feb. 18/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>14799 E 49th St Yuma</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-342-5880</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>hux@bulkley.net</i>	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

**Please see the Next 2 Pages**

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### Step 4

*This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:*  
 Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
 or

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
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Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

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Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

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YOUR NAME <i>HAROLD + CAROL Wilson</i>	DATE <i>2-21-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13709 So. Ave. 14 1/2 E</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>208-659-2633</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*we can not see a increase of 100 to 200%*

*Plus we are only here for 3 to 5 months*

*that we shall be paying for the whole year.*

*We can see an increase as all things have*

*increased but this is ridiculous*

*Harold Wilson*

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

*P.S. If we make Poor Judgment on our Property  
no one else helps us pay for the repairs*

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Lila M. Alloway</i>	DATE <i>2/20/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>9667 E. 33rd Place</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-9184</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>lezonie@g.com</i>	

## Step 3

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**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

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C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

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**In Conclusion**

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**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
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Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Karen Liles</i>	DATE <i>8-19-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>12541 E. 46th DR</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>1-541-990-4739</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>lileskrna@aim.com</i>	

## Step 3

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

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**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>ROY I WALZ</b>	DATE <b>2-23-09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>12732 E 46<sup>th</sup> DR YUMA AZ</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>253 381 2419</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>85367</b> Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	<b>rw</b>

## Step 3

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

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### Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Arthur E Krause</i>	DATE <i>2-16-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13382 E 53<sup>rd</sup> Dr Yuma AZ</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-342-9376</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>SKrause928@aol.com</i>	 

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- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
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Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific proceeding only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

All time address:

1363 Lower Klamath Lake Rd. <sup>Step 2</sup> Klamath Falls, Ore. 97603

Winter Address

YOUR NAME Art & Mary Davila		DATE 2/6/09
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 14389 E 50th St, Yuma, Az.		YOUR PHONE NUMBER 541-891-8146
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Far West Sewer Rate Increase		DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Sewer Co		YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS		

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We feel that this is unfair to have a 200% increase in the sewer rate at this time.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:  
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

or

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME AARON E Caleen HALL JR	DATE 2/19/09
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13246 E 53rd Lane YUMA AZ	YOUR PHONE NUMBER 970-260-6323
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS lucky7rv@netzero.net	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION,** we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

or

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

# Arizona Corporation Commission

## Public Comment Form

*This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.*

YOUR NAME <i>Peder C &amp; Marie L Johnson</i>	DATE <i>2-20-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>9729 E 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Yuma, AZ 85365</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>(503) 364-8664</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>P_M Johnson@Netzero.com</i>	

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;



**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2009 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

**In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
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Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form  
Continuation Page**

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Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

2/20/09

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Ref: Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

This follows my letter of 1/19/09 on this subject.

Here we go again. It is clear that Far West's miscreant chickens are coming home to roost! In today's Yuma Sun we read of an "interim emergency rate increase - - it needs the additional revenue to cover the cost of approximately \$20 million in improvements - - is necessary to ensure the company remains solvent and able - - the company is in dire need - - its ability to maintain service pending a formal rate determination is in serious doubt." Yet, "Far West officials were not available for comment Thursday." Great PR!

Comments all ominously familiar to those preceding the current, "dire" \$900 billion mess our entire nation finds itself in at this time. Scare tactics! Chapter 11 is designed to correct insolvency. Require that Far West Water and Sewer liquidate ownership and sell to a more responsible and competent owner.

I'm somewhat surprised that Far West isn't at the head of the line with their hand out for a piece of the \$4 billion "stimulus" that's supposed to be headed Arizona's way - or are they? Perhaps Yuma Foothills residents wouldn't be in this predicament if Far West had not incurred a multi-million dollar lawsuit over long-standing mismanagement resulting in raw sewage spills and ultimately the death of an employee. Now they require an "interim rate increase" to bail them out of that mess too. Just another of their miscreant chickens!

The Sun also carries a story about the more than 8,000 Foothills customers affected by this debacle. This Far West threat "just happens" to come at the time when their sewer system is required to perform at peak capacity because winter 'snowbirds' are at their peak season numbers utilizing the system. Since winter comes every year this, of course, is not something that Far West should have known - and planned for - years ago. No, they prefer the 'threaten and squeeze' tactic. Just more of the "good ol' boy system" epidemic in Yuma County. Yuma County isn't clean either. Where were the Yuma County Planning Department's and Health Department's oversight while this mess was brewing? Everything that exists - or doesn't exist - was allowed by them.

Arizona Corporation Commission

I urge you to NOT grant the "interim" rate increase or the original increase. Give Far West 160 days to enter receivership, liquidate their holdings and secure a new qualified buyer.

The public is tired of suffering the failings of government and those commercial entities theoretically committed to serving the public good. 8000 customers form a good basis for a Class Action litigation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard A. Youngs', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Youngs  
10790 E. 39<sup>th</sup> Street  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
928-305-0207

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Ron or Penny Kovick</b>	DATE <b>February 18, 2009</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>14723 E. 48th Dr. Yuma Arizona 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>208-890-8833</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>pennykovick@hotmail.com</b>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

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Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

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# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>DWIGHT M<sup>C</sup>GRATH</b>	DATE <b>02/21/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>10277 S. SUMMER AVE. YUMA AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>406-471-4445</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>WS03478-A-0454</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

I've Purchased a lot in the seasons R.V. Village Unit 3 Jan. 16/0  
I assumed my sewer fee would be 21.75 per month as quoted  
by Far west water and sewer co. the Provider.  
I plan to use these services 4 or 5 months out of the year.  
I excepted the fact that I would pay for these services 7 or 8  
months out of the year while not using them.  
If I had been aware of this excessive rate increase being  
Proposed for the sewer service I would not have bought the lot.  
Is it fare to pay this unreasonable rate increase for the 7  
or 8 months while not using the service?

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

*Dwight M<sup>C</sup>Grath*

## Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;  
or

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)



Bonnie J. Farris  
13267 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Yuma, AZ 85367

February 21, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket # WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

I am amazed and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

It is quite apparent that the proposed increase has been requested in order to pay off debt incurred to finance the improvements needed to bring the current system into compliance with the ADEQ requirements and to allow for future development of the system. The cost of these improvements should not be the responsibility of the present consumer; it should be the responsibility of the company which obviously ignored the requirements in the first place.

It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area, will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc. and not the current consumers.

Sincerely,

  
Bonnie J. Farris

Date: February 20, 2009  
To: Arizona Corporation Commission  
From: Karma D. Boardman  
Re: Public Comment Form

Ms. Karma Boardman  
13559 E 53rd Ln.  
Yuma, AZ 85367

I am writing in regards to docket # WS-03478A-08-0454 for an increase in the sewer rate in our area. I believe it is true that costs increase in order to run a business. However, if a business is managed well the increase in costs should have been being monitored and adjusted accordingly. As a homeowner in this area I like many others are on a fixed income. In addition, in these economic times many of us have lost a third or more of our earning power. Therefore, I believe a more than 200% increase is not justified.

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Wayne V Cook v Joetta Davenport</i>	DATE <i>Feb. 20, 2009</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13465 E 54th Yuma AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>801-698-1391</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Sewer Rate Increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>H+S Dev- FAR West Water + Sewer</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>JoettaDavenport@yahoo.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*I feel this proposal is totally out of line. I understand prices go up but this is an outrage. The developers should bear the responsibility for putting in new sewer water, we all already pay a high rate fee when we like others aren't even here in the summer when is that money going? I feel the "group" is trying to monopolize everything in the foothills and let will bite them in the ass if this continues. I've only purchased a home 1 yr ago, but I like many others see the scale going way to far in the wrong direction. I oppose this proposed increase.*  
*Wayne V Cook Joetta Davenport*

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

## Step 4

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**  
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February 20, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

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It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc., and not the current consumers.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Trenary Janis Trenary  
13114 S. Wash Ln.  
Yuma, Az. 85367

February 19, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer  
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona  
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454  
Position on the Docket: Con

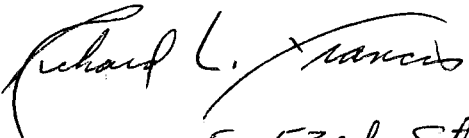
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Sincerely,

  
13277 E. 53rd. St.  
Yuma, AZ 85367  
phone: 928-342-9840

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Delmar Brown</i>	DATE <i>Feb. 23, 2009</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11322 So. Avenue 12E #218 Yuma AZ</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-342-7126</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*The rate increase that Far West is asking for seems totally out of line. As a snowbird, I see no benefit in the increase. Our sewer bill in Wisconsin is \$144.00 annually and we have not had an increase in the 35 years living there.*

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

*This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:  
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;*

*or*

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)*

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>DOYLE F. NEWBRY</i>	DATE <i>2/23/29</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>14712 E 52ND DR YUMA, AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-305-9645</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>SEWER RATE INCREASE</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>FAR WEST WATER &amp; SEWER, INC</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS _____	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

<i>PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED!</i>  <i>D. F. Newbury</i>
---

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

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D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
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Continued on the Next Page.



# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

Continuation Page

Re: Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454

It is apparent the nation's economy, businesses, and the stock market are distressed, to say the least. As a retired couple, we've been hit hard, and are cutting back everywhere we can to try to make it. And, we are not alone. Many of our friends and neighbors here in the Foothills are in the same situation. During such a time of layoffs, cutbacks, and bailouts, how can one company expect a several hundred percent increase in revenues? Not only do they charge us for sewer service twelve months a year (we only live here four or five months), they now want an astronomical increase. Boiling it down, they want to charge us for service we don't receive, and increase the rate almost 3 ½ times the current amount. It seems to us they may have been mis-managing their funds, and now want a Washington style bailout, with the common people paying for it. In a three year span of increases, their monthly charge would be roughly triple what the sewer charge is in most cities. We are praying that those with some common sense will be determining the outcome of this application. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Ron and Betty Hodges  
12580 E. 47<sup>th</sup> Dr  
Yuma, Az 85367  
928-305-6207  
541-659-4150

*Ronald C. Hodges*  
*Betty Hodges*

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>RICHARD W. WEGFORTH</b>	DATE <b>2-21-09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>12580 S. COLINA AVE., YUMA</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-342-3886</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>N. A.</b>	

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.

- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.

- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

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Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>NORMAN W. CULVER</i>	DATE <i>2-21-2009</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13604 E 55TH ST, YUMA, AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-0281</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>nwd12col@aol.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

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Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

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*Norman W. Cuth*

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME → <u>Michael House</u>	DATE <u>2-20-09</u>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP → <u>13308 E. 55<sup>TH</sup> ST Yuma 85367</u>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <u>920-866-5986</u>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <u>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</u>	DOCKET NUMBER <u>WS-03478A-08-0454</u>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <u>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</u>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS →	

## Step 3

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

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Continued on the Next Page.

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

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Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

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YOUR NAME <b>Lyle Matlock</b>	DATE <b>2/4/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>789 EAST RIDGE DR. MEDFORD, OR</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>914 212 1821</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>sewer rate increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0457</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer, Inc.</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>Lyle.Matlock@Galloo.com</b>	

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

DUE TO POOR PLANNING & OVERDEVELOPMENT  
MILES OF UNUSED SEWER LINES IS A  
PROBLEM FOR FAR WEST WATER & SEWER.  
CURRENT PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD  
PAY FOR THIS? I DON'T THINK SO

Sincerely **Lyle Matlock**

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Diane &amp; Gene Slagle</i>	DATE <i>2-21-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13201 E 45th DR Yuma AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>206-547-7779</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Increase in annual revenues for sewer service</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*This increase is too extreme! Especially with the downfall in the Economy! We only stay (or have friends stay) on our lot for 6 months a year. We should not be paying for sewer service when we are not using it! We will probably have to sell the property if all these charges are increased!*

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## Step 4

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Ray &amp; Marvi Eckroth</i>	DATE <i>2-22-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11322 S Ave 12E #183 - Yuma, AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-726-0630</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>RAYMAR4@q.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*The increase is way out of line, especially when you are on a fixed income.*

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

*This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:  
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;*

*or*

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:  
[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)*

## Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

### Step 1

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### Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Richard + Georgia Wenz</b>	DATE <b>2-20-08</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>9633 E 36 Pl Yuma</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>343-9489</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>georgiawenz@aol.com</b>	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

**Please see the Next 2 Pages**

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# Arizona Corporation Commission

## Public Comment Form

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### Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Denis A. Hart</b>	DATE <b>2/20/2008</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>3837 Salida Del Sol</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>(406) 431-9529</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>	DOCKET NUMBER
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Sewer</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>mtdh@aol.com</b>	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

I am a retired civil servant from Montana who just bought an RV lot at the above address on the very day that Far West Sewer announced their first outrageous sewer rate increase. My wife and I considered every possible cost we might incur if we purchased the lot and after weeks of agonizing, reducing other costs, and planning to live on a bare bones budget, we finally saw our way clear to make the purchase..... only to be hit with a 2-300% sewer rate increase, and now a 109% emergency rate increase on top of that. That is extremely unfair to Far West's snowbird clients who only use the system for 4-6 months per year, but already must pay residential rates of \$21.42 per month, for twelve months on a Rv which normally holds two-three people at the most! That brings the effective rate for us snowbirds to an astounding \$42.84 for 6 months and \$64,20 per month for 4 months. And now, they want a staggering 200% permanent increase and a 109% emergency increase on top of that!! People are outraged and have every right to

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**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

to be, since this whole debacle is caused by extremely poor management and poorly planned development investments made by the company responsible for these increased costs. The Madoff scandal doesn't seem so bad, now.

Sadly, the fine community of Yuma will have a very bad reputation if this is allowed to go through as proposed, and neither my wife or I will be promoting Yuma to our friends, as we have in the past many years we have been coming here. It seems extremely unethical to me that residents who bought their property in good faith, are now being asked to "bail out" a company that is known far and wide for it's poor management of the existing system to cut costs to pay for other bad business decisions such as the Encantado development. Why should residents of Fortuna and Vista del Sol be forced to pay for that too?? We already paid for our sewer system once.

Please use good judgement in your decision, and show some empathy for snowbirds like us who have scraped together every last dime they could to invest in the Yuma community, only to get blind sided like this. If passed as proposed, my effective sewer rate will cost more per month than I am currently spending on food and all my other utilities.

Thank you

Denis & Sue Hart

Polson, Montana

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Millie Larson</b>	DATE <b>2/20/2009</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>9573 E 36th PL Yuma, AZ 85365</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>(928) 345-9445</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Rate Application of Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company - Yuma, Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>larsonmd@q.com</b>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

This rate increase should not be approved. The State Department of Health should investigate the sewer system for the Vista Del Sol Development. This is a health problem.

Far West Water and Sewer Company should be paying all occupants of the Vista Del Sol Development to use their system. The stench from their lagoon is so bad you cannot be outside when the wind is blowing from the South. Even a gentle southern breeze brings the stench from the lagoon. The snowbirds in their RV's and the year-round residents cannot eat outside or socialize when the breeze comes from the south. The seasonal residents cannot enjoy Yuma's fantastic weather, and that is why they come to Yuma. If you have a window open at night in your bedroom, the stench will wake you up.

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**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form  
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

It is not our fault the sewer system at Vista Del Sol was installed on clay soil that will not allow the holding ponds to filter into the soil, and Far West now has to daily truck affluent from the holding ponds to who knows where. It has been reported that the stench is not harmful to residents, but a test from a State or National Health Department would be more meaningful than a test from the local Health Department.

We should not be asked to pay more for inadequate service.

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 W Washington St  
Phoenix, AZ.  
85007

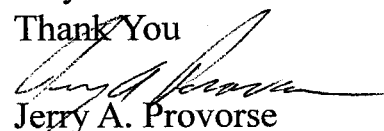
I am filing my complaint against Far West Sewer Company for their plan of Temp rate hike as well as their plans of a preferment rate hike  
Their request rate hikes is fact they have poor management as well as poor business practices. They wish to work with the property developers and get additional money then from the people receiving their services.. Why not make the developers pay .

Check to see how the extra profit will be spent. I bet if you check their books, you will find that they will receive a hike in their salaries as well as bonus at the end of the year

It was bad enough where I only receive servies for five months out of the year and then they changed it to where I have to pay for twelve months a year.

Byt all rights, since I live in the city of Yuma and receive all my services through them, we should be receiving our sewer through the city and paying only that rate for those that live in the city of Yuma.

Thank You



Jerry A. Provorse

9587 E 33 pl.  
Yuma, AZ.  
85365

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>DAVID OLIVER</b>	DATE <b>2/23/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13721 50TH DR YUMA AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>503396 0392</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>sewer rate increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0457</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>OLIVER2435@MSN.DOT.COM</b>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

THESE CORPORATIONS ARE ENTITLED TO SOME RATE INCREASES BUT THIS KIND OF INCREASE WOULD ONLY BE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF NEGLIGENT MISMANAGEMENT AND THE CUSTOMERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR THAT KIND OF BUSINESS MISMANAGEMENT

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>DeLoe &amp; Carol Hawker</i>	DATE <i>2/18/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>14153 E 48th Dr Yuma Az. 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>208-739-6606</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>DeLoe.Hawker@hotmail.com</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2009 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%



James. E. Degan  
Myrna R. Degan  
12635 E. 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
Yuma. Arizona 85367-4740

February 20, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Services Section  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Docket No. WB-03478A-08-0454

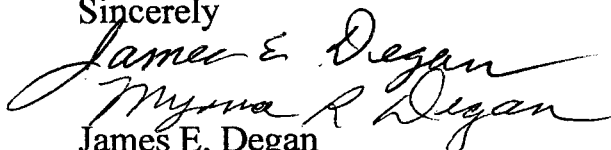
Dear Sir,

I am opposed to the excessive rate increase for Far West Water and Sewer Co. Which I view as being caused by poor management by Far West. Only last year, Far West requested to borrow, by selling bonds of 25 million dollars to cover repairs needed to be in compliance with state laws and regulations. Far West stated at that time, if the bond issue was approved, it would solve all their problems and would not require any rate increase to repay these monies. Now, it turns out, that not only were all problems not resolved, but also Far West has not enough funds to continue operations. Does this mean we were out and out lied to at that time?

I would like to point out the majority of Far West customers are retired or on a fixed income of some kind. These rate increases would place a burden on a vast number of Far West customers. While the areas Winter Visitors have some choice as to not returning to the Foothills area. Those of us who live here year round do not. If this adsorbent increase in granted property values will decline and our property would be even harder to resell.

I appreciate your consideration of my position and request. I look forward to a fair decision by the Commission.

Sincerely

  
James E. Degan  
Myrna R. Degan

# Arizona Corporation Commission

## Public Comment Form

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### Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Ken Fletcher Booth</b>	DATE <b>2/23/2009</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>14860 E. 51st Drive</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>(318) 789-0143</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Utilities Division</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer Co., Inc.</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>ycazso@roadrunner.com</b>	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

This is to express opposition to the 214.8 percent sewer rate increase proposed by Far West Water and Sewer Company, Inc., Yuma, Arizona (Far West) scheduled for Commission action on or about July 29, 2009.

At a time when the finances of homeowners are stressed to the breaking point, I find this staggering rate request to be unthinkable, defiant of all reason, and borderline scandalous. Something is terribly wrong with a utility company which seeks to foist upon its customers a service rate that equals to or nears the level of the yearly property taxes paid by those customers. A few minutes of routine research reveals this percentage of increase is comparable to the level of increase sought and rates imposed in recent years by the 10 largest U.S. cities.

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

In the grip of recession, with experts (and even the President of the United States) daily predicting a continued economic downturn through 2009, a call for any increase appears outrageous on its face. The fact that Far West's own record of violations, fines, and adjudicated liabilities only contributes to the image that this company's hierarchy just doesn't get it. Frankly, all of this, when combined with this outrageous new rate proposal, leaves me caught with my adjectives down. The term arrogance comes to mind but seems somehow insufficient.

By any honest assessment it is unfair that customers of Far West be asked to absorb the cost of the company's own apparent lack of management which has 1) permitted every one of its sewer wastewater treatment facilities in Yuma County to fail state health/environmental inspections (2006); 2) be found guilty of five felony charges including negligent homicide in the deaths of two employees, two counts of endangerment, and violating a safety standard (Oct., 2005) resulting in a fine of \$1.7-million and more than \$150,000 in restitution [prosecutors had asked for a fine of \$4.4-million. NOTE: Far West is still on 9 years probation resulting from this judge's sentence; 4) delays in ordered relocation of lines for a multi-million dollar Fortuna Road improvement project in the Yuma Foothills costing Yuma County tens of thousands of dollars in cost overruns. [Far West was billed by the County]; and 5) a legal order for a proposed moratorium on new hook-ups amid environmental concerns over violations; and 6) allegations of the owner of Far West was profiting from a bidding process with a development company that is part of the business. In addition, Far West was once found operating without proper permits at three of its wastewater facilities, a serious infraction, not just paperwork. In several cases, Far West got a general permit for a plant that treats less than 25,000 gallons a day but did not apply for proper permits as it upgraded the plant. To quote Steve Owens, Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality: "That seems to be a general problem with Far West."

It is interesting to note that in 2006, the same year Far West was socked with heavy fines related to some of the above-referenced issues, it requested a 35.2% rate increase from the Corporation Commission that would boost its revenues by \$514,996. Now, less than three years later, Far West says it needs to increase its revenues by another \$2.2-million?

It can safely be said that many if not most of the homeowners living within the Far West service area are seniors living on fixed incomes, many of them relying solely upon their monthly Social Security checks. I am one of these people and cannot abide the notion a company with a repeatedly tarnished business operation could place me beyond the end of my slender financial rope.

I respectfully ask members of the Commission to reject the Far West application referenced by the above-captioned Docket number. Enough is enough.

# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Donald G Smith</b>	DATE <b>Feb 20/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13151 E 53 ST. Yuma AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928 342-2095</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON <b>Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

## Step 3

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## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

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F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

#### **In Conclusion**

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- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
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Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

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Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

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# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Jeffrey R. Taylor</i>	DATE <i>2/20/08</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11322 South Ave 12E, Yuma #95</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>517-402-2182</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>jtaylor@mphi.org</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*The proposed large increase is unbelievable. I am opposed. The cost of the plant must be depreciated over a longer period of time.*

*If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.*

## Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
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[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

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YOUR NAME <b>RAY DECKER</b>	DATE <b>2/20/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13938 E 54th Dr Yuma, Ariz 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-305-1287</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

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**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE.

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F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

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Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>Marvin R. Heikkila</b>	DATE <b>2/20/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>14814 E 49th Street - Yuma 85365</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>208-861-3235</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>tbaysmom@Frontier.net</b>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

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Continued on the Next Page.

**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form  
Continuation Page**

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Ken &amp; Sharon Wheeler</i>	DATE <i>2/19/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13634 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Drive</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>530-825-2114</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS _____	

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Wayne Huxtable</i>	DATE <i>Feb 18 / 09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>14615E 50th St Yuma</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-342-5880</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>hux@bulKley.net</i>	

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*2 properties*

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CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

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## **Public Comment Form**

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YOUR NAME <i>Fred Cross</i>	DATE <i>2/20/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>9725-E. 35th St. Yuma, AZ. 85365</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>425-238 1613</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i></i>	

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**Arizona Corporation Commission  
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Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

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# Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

## Step 1

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## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Rouena M. Neal</i>	DATE <i>2-20-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>9635 E. 33<sup>rd</sup> Pl</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928 287 2016</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>[Signature]</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

**BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.**

**A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.**

**Please see the Next 2 Pages**

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## Step 4

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**

*or*

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:*  
**mailmaster@azcc.gov**

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2009 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

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D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

**In Conclusion**

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

*Rowena M Neal*

**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
**Public Comment Form**  
**Continuation Page**

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*Ramona M Neal*  
*9635 E. 33<sup>rd</sup> PL*  
*Yuma AZ*



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YOUR NAME <b>RONALD RUST</b>	DATE <b>7/20/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>13950 E 54<sup>th</sup> DR YUMA AZ 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-342-2070</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <b>ronrust104@roadrunner.com</b>	

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE.

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE

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**Arizona Corporation Commission**  
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February 20, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Consumer Service Section  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

To whom it may concern

We strongly oppose to this increase WS-03478A-08-0608 docket ~~03478A-08-0608~~ We too like many other retirees are on a fixed income and do not want this EMERGENCY RATE INCREASE. This must not happen at this time a 214% increase is a huge increase at this point of time. Can it not be spread out over 5 to 10 years?

We are not able to attend this hearing and wish to let our opinion be known. Please be advised Pete Zubieta and Karen Zubieta are strongly opposed to this increase. Your sincere consideration with this increase would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your consideration

Sincerely



Pete/Karen Zubieta

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*E. M. Alloway*  
9667 E. 33rd place  
Yuma, AZ 85365

YOUR NAME <i>ELI M. ALLOWAY</i>	DATE <i>2/20/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP	YOUR PHONE NUMBER
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <del>WS-03478A-00-0134</del> <i>WS-03478A-08-0608</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <del>WS-03478A-00-0134</del>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer Company</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

### Step 3

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Continued on the Next Page.

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# **Arizona Corporation Commission**

## **Public Comment Form**

### **Continuation Page**

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9667 E. 33rd place  
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